

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-26 (Cancelled).

27. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having leuD activity, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47, 49, 51, or 53 have at least 80% sequence identity based on the Clustal alignment method, or
- (b) the complement of the nucleotide sequence, wherein the complement and the nucleotide sequence contain the same number of nucleotides and are 100% complementary.

28. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47, 49, 51, or 53 have at least 90% sequence identity based on the Clustal alignment method.

29. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47, 49, 51, or 53 have at least 95% sequence identity based on the Clustal alignment method.

4 30. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 27 wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:47, 49, 51, or 53.

5 31. (Currently amended) The polynucleotide of claim 27 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:46, 48, 50, or 52.

32. (Previously added) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 27.

33. (Previously added) A recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 27 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

34. (Previously added) A method for transforming a cell comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 27.

35. (Previously added) A cell comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 33.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously added) A method for isolating a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of Claim 27 comprising isolating the polypeptide from a cell containing a recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide operably linked to a regulatory sequence.